

Snapshot: 'Bisa Butler: Portraits'

The artist's quilts are a kaleidoscope of colour and texture collating the influences and experiences of individuals of African descent



'The Princess' (2018) © Bisa Butler

Chris Allnutt JULY 17 2020



Every one of Bisa Butler's quilts is a kaleidoscope of colour and texture collating the influences and experiences of individuals of African descent through intricate arrangements of cotton, chiffon, satin and lace. In an exhibition at the soon-to-reopen Katonah Museum of Art, the Brooklyn-based artist uses fabrics to tell the stories of prominent figures such as bluesman Muddy Waters and singer Jill Scott, as well as ordinary people and members of her family.

"The Princess" is based on a photograph of one of Butler's oldest friends who emigrated from Jamaica to the US at the age of six. It is a picture of displacement but also a vision of hope, a tribute to shared cultural experience and a powerful affirmation of colour in otherwise gloomy times.

'Bisa Butler: Portraits' is showing at Katonah Museum of Art, New York state, until October 4. The museum reopens on Sunday July 26

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